

Dear Bob and Jim,

Months ago, we requested via email an update from the LWG on the status of your food web modeling efforts for the Portland Harbor RI/FS. To date you have not provided the requested information. Thus, this letter is a formal, direct request for specific information on your food web modeling efforts to help us move forward. It is essential that we work collaboratively and quickly to develop an effective food web model if we are to achieve a Record of Decision in 2008. Otherwise, EPA and our partners will be forced move forward with developing a model that we will direct the LWG to use, and if possible, we would like to avoid a “dueling model” situation.

By October 17, 2005, please provide us with the following information:

- Tell us which version of the Arnot model the LWG is using, and send us the model version. Specifically please provide the working model including code and transparent documentation of model equations and parameters. The government team must be able to run and evaluate the model independently.
- Tell us how far along the LWG is in the food web modeling process in general, and specifically:
 - What log K_{ow} s are the LWG using in the model?
 - What species is the LWG modeling?
 - Give us the food web structure that is the LWG using (i.e., who eats who, with diet percentages for each prey species).
 - What lipid contents is the LWG assigning to fish species?
 - What body weights are the LWG using for individual fish species?
 - Is the LWG segmenting the river into different reaches or modeling the river as a whole? If so, provide specifics on the approach.
 - How is the LWG calibrating the model?

It is our expectation that open communication and collaboration on the specifics of the model occurs as soon as possible. It is in everyone's best interest to reach consensus on some of the key issues surrounding the effort such that a model meeting the team's objectives and specifications is generated.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact us immediately.

Sincerely,

Eric and Chip

